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To Colleagues members of the Codex  
Community in the Middle East and North Africa  
Region (MENA) / Codex Contact points

***Subject: Invitation to Participate in a 3-day Codex Colloquium, September 12-14<sup>th</sup> 2021, Dubai, UAE:  
Enhancing Coordination and Impact of Codex Activities in the MENA Region – Taking Stock of Codex  
Technical Committees and Preparation for Upcoming Codex Committee and Commission (CAC44) Meetings***

Dear colleague(s),

We would like to inform you and seek your support to identify participants in a **3-day Colloquium**, organized by the Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence Platform (PARERA) at Université Laval, Quebec, Canada, in collaboration with the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GfoRSS).

This Colloquium is held as part of the [MENA CODEX initiative](#) implemented jointly by PARERA and GFORSS with the aim to enhance Codex capacity in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) through:

- the development of communities of practice in targeted countries to facilitate effective preparation and contribution in Codex Technical Committees, the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), and the Executive Committee, where relevant.
- the enhancement of national Codex capacities in countries of the MENA region, and
- the development of enablers to Codex work, such as availability of data information sharing and coordination tools.

The September MENA CODEX Colloquium is planned from **September 12-14<sup>th</sup> 2021 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and will be held using a hybrid mode** (with participants present physically at the meeting location and others contributing through a virtual Zoom Platform).

This letter aims to share the preliminary program of this event, to help identify possible contributors from your Codex team members. We would be grateful if you could identify up to 7 participants who will be contributing either virtually or in person to the planned discussions. Up to 2 colleagues from each country will be invited to join in person and will be identified jointly in collaboration with the Codex Contact point of the participating country.

The objectives of the Colloquium are to:

- 1) further develop the Codex communities of practice that were initiated in the region, in particular, the Informal Advisory Forum for Codex Contact Points of Arab North Africa, and a possible similar Advisory Forum for Gulf and Near East Countries.
- 2) Support the review of conclusions of major Codex Past Technical Committees, namely: CCGP, CCCF, CCFICS, and CCRVDF, in preparation for participation at the next meetings and the Codex Alimentarius Commission Discussion
- 3) Prepare for upcoming Codex Technical Committee meetings: Codex Committee on Food Labelling CCFL, September 27-October 1 2021; and the Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance, October 4-9 2021.
- 4) Prepare for the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC44), to be held November 8-13, 2021

A tentative agenda for the Colloquium is attached. This program will be further updated in collaboration with key Codex Contact points of the region and will be made available on the [MENA Codex Website](#).

You are kindly requested to fill the Excel Sheet Attached with the suggested contributors to the various discussions planned. Colleagues identified to join in person at the Colloquium will be asked to contribute to all the planned sessions.

All costs associated with the travel and stay in Dubai will be covered by the MENA Codex initiative.

We remain at your disposal should you have any questions on the planned Colloquium or on the [MENA CODEX initiative](#).

We look forward to your active engagement with us and the GForSS / PARERA team to support countries of the MENA region in effective contribution to Codex Proceedings and to maximize the impacts of international food standard setting efforts on enhancing the performance of food control systems.

Yours sincerely,

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President and COO of GForSS

### About PARERA

The Institute of Nutrition and Functional Foods (INAF) and the Food Science Department of Laval University (Quebec, QC, Canada) launched the [Food risk analysis and regulatory excellence platform](#) in 2017. Since its establishment, the Platform has contributed to the development of food regulatory sciences through research, educational programs, training and capacity building initiatives.

### About GForSS

[GForSS](#) is a not-for-profit organization hosted by the Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence Platform ([PARERA](#)) of the Department of Food Science and the Institute of Nutrition and Functional Foods of the Université Laval.

The Society aims to promote the generation and dissemination of knowledge and competencies related to food regulatory sciences, that is, all disciplines applied in the context of developing, implementing and evaluating food regulatory decisions including, but not limited to, food risk analysis and associated disciplines.

The Society's membership consists of scientists and regulators from food regulatory agencies at any level of government: municipal, state / provincial, national and international, including international organizations, scientists and professionals in any related food regulatory scientific discipline from non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.